

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04141 301148Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /100 W

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R 301001Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3038

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY RLONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1091

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4141

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BOTHA'S RADIO AND TV STATEMENTS DRAW
PRAISE AND FIRE.

1. RAND DAILY MAIL OCTOBER 28 GAVE PROMINENT SPACE TO
ARTICLE HEADLINED " SLICK PIK STEALS SHOW," REFERRING TO
BOTHA'S APPEARANCE ON WNET-TV FOR DISCUSSION OF FILM " LAST
GRAVE AT DIMBAZA" WITH INTERVIEWER ANTHONY LEWIS. PAPER
NOTED THAT CRITICISM OF BOTHA FOR REPORTEDLY HAVING REFUSED
TO APPEAR WITH A SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK WAS TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED,
QUOTING BOTHA'S DENUNCIATION OF THE REPORT AS A LIE, AND
CITING STATION OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD
NOT BEEN CONSULTED IN ANY WAY ABOUT WHO WOULD APPEAR WITH HIM.

2. PRESS CITED SEVERAL COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT BOTHA'S
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04141 301148Z

PERFORMANCE HAD BEEN " SLICK" AND THAT HE HAD ACQUITTED

HIMSELF VERY WELL, BUT NOTED THAT OTHERS HAD THOUGHT THE FILM REMAINED OVERWHELMING IN ITS PORTRAYAL OF INJUSTICE AND INHUMANITY.

3. PRETORIA NEWS MENTIONS US RADIO INTERVIEW OF OCTOBER 26 IN WHICH BOTHA MADE A NUMBER OF HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE OBSERVATIONS. AMONG THEM:

A. SUCCESS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RACE POLICIES MIGHT LEAD TO DEMAND BY US BLACKS FOR SEPARATE ENTITY OF THEIR OWN.

B. MULTINATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SAG REPLACEMENT PHRASE FOR APARTHEID) IS WAY OF LIFE VOLUNTARILY DECIDED ON BY ALL IMPORTANT LEADERS IN REPUBLIC.

C. RESULTS OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES) IN EDUCATION, STANDARDS, WELFARE, WAGES, ARE THE HIGHEST IN ANY COMPARABLE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE WORLD.

D. THE (UN) ORGANIZATION CAN CERTAINLY NOT BE TAKEN AS A FORUM THAT REFLECTS REALITIES IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

4. FOREGOING REPORT DREW FIRE OCTOBER 30 FROM RAND DAILY MAIL IN EDITORIAL " PIK BOTHA'S SLEIGHT OF FACT". TERMING THE PERFORMANCE A " SHABBY DECEPTION.. MESMERIZING THE UNINITIATED WITH FACTS THAT MADE BETTER INFORMED PEOPLE'S HAIR STAND ON END", THE DITORIAL CONTINUED:

" ON PAST PERFORMANCE MR. BOTHA HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE NOT A NAIVE FOOL BUT AN ASTUTE POLITICAL DIPLOMAT. HOW CAN HE JUSTIFY HIS UTOPIAN PICTURE OF LIFE HERE AGAINST THE TRUTH?"

" HE SPOKE OF ' MULTIRACIAL DEVELOPMENT' (THAT'S APARTHEID-STYLE MULTINATIONALISM) AS A VOLUNTARY WAY OF LIFE, VOLUNTARILY DECIDED ON BY ALL THE IMPORTANT LEADERS IN THIS COUNTRY."

" BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL BLACK ' HOMELAND' LEADERS, EXCEPT CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA OF THE TRANSKEI, REJECT THIS POLICY. AND MULTINATIONALISM IS TO BLAME FOR THE MAJOR BREACH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OFFICIALLY ELECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04141 301148Z

COLOURED LEADERS."

"MR BOTHA SAID BLACK EDUCATION WAS NOT COMPULSORY BECAUSE ' WE CANNOT ENFORCE IS'."

" BUT THE TRUTH IS THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN CHILDREN NEED NO ENFORCEMENT, JUST THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL."

" MR BOTHA SAID THAT, VIEWED IN THE RIGHT WAY, WHITES

REALLY HAVE ONLY 50 PER CENT OF THE LAND, AND THE LEAST FERTILE AT THAT."

" BUT THE TRUTH-- IN THE REPUBLIC -- IS THAT 4-MILLION WHITES HAVE 87 PER CENT OF THE LAND INCLUDING ALL THE WEALTHIEST TOWNS, WHILE 20-MILLION BLACKS HAVE A SCATTERED 13 PER CENT."

MR. BOTHA SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FOREVER TRYING TO INCREASE BLACK WAGES AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS, BUT IT COULD NOT PRESCRIBE TO FOREIGN INVESTORS HOW MUCH THEY MUST PAY.

" BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DENIES BLACK WORKERS THOSE VERY LABOUR RIGHTS THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO PRESS SUCCESSFULLY FOR BETTER WAGES.

" WHAT MEANINGFUL GAINS CAN SOUTH AFRICA HOPE FOR BY PRESENTING TWISTED HALF-TRUTHS TO OUTSIDE AUDIENCES?

MR. BOTHA HAS PREVIOUSLY SCORED WITH HIS PASSIONATE BUT SINCERE DEFENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA. BUT THAT REPUTATION WILL BOOMERANG IF PEOPLE FIND THEY ARE BEING MISLED.

" THE BIGGEST DANGER OF ALL IS THAT MR. BOTHA AND HIS PARTY'S FOLLOWERS MAY ACTUALLY BELIEVE THE 'FACTS' HE PRESENTED ON TELEVISION. AT A TIME WHEN EVERY SINGLE WHITE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS TO BE ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF OUR UNJUST SOCIAL PRACTICES, IT WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF RECKLESSNESS TO VOLUNTARILY PUT ON A POLITICAL BLINDFOLD."

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